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02-277

Written Exports

ORIGINAL

TO: Chairman

Commissioners

400 Documents

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FEB 04 2003

International Commission
on the Rule of Law

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List A B C D E

011

From: Christina Wilts
To: Mike Powell
Date: 1/28/03 11:24AM
Subject: FCC Regulations

Michael K. Powell

Chairman

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to tell you of my opposition to the proposed changes by your agency to the current Media Ownership Rules.

Further concentration of media ownership does not serve our democratic society based upon democratic principles, but instead undermines it. Following World War II, our government placed restrictions upon news media outlet ownership because of how totalitarian regimes used controlled media concentrated in the hands of a few corporations and government agencies to control their people and move the world towards war. The proposed changes to the current Media Ownership Rules completely undermines this principle that so many Americans have fought to defend from our countrys birth to the present.

Furthermore, the series of reports released by the FCC about the current media marketplace are focused almost entirely on the economic impact of relaxing the ownership rules. They ignore the public's interest in a diverse and independent press. You have also scheduled only one public hearing regarding this issue. The FCC has barely publicized the proposed changes, and combined with a very short public comment period I can only surmise that you hope to sneak these changes past the American people. I certainly didnt find out about them as a result of anything that was done by your agency.

You should be ashamed that an agency under your leadership is not using what is in the best interests of the American public as its guiding principle, but instead is thinking of what is most profitable for a few huge corporations who only care about the bottom line, not about what is good for democracy.

Sincerely yours,

Christina Wilts

109 E 8

From: Kaia Tollefson
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 1/28/03 5:46PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

FEB - 4 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Kaia Tollefson (kaia@unm.edu) writes:

I am a social studies teacher. I have worked with students of all ages, from grade school through college. When I teach students about the First Amendment, I would like to be able to engage them in discussions about democracy in proactive ways - emphasizing the ideal of informed citizenship.

As things stand, however, under the imminent threat of further media consolidation, the FCC appears more invested *in* corporate well-being than in mine, my students', and my fellow citizens'.

Our Constitutional rights impel you to work on our behalf. Please do so. It is a brutal thing, to listen as 10-year-olds reveal their cynical wisdom - their knowledge of a media system that is out to make money, no matter the social cost. It makes the teaching of Constitutional ideals, what should be a powerful and uplifting experience, a sad business, indeed.

Please do all that you can to ensure that any semblance of media diversity that remains is allowed to continue. Even better, please do all that you can to help us, the people, to believe that you hold some value for a vibrant democracy.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 207.66.72.100
Remote IP address: 207.66.72.100

No. of Copies rec'd. 0+1
List ABCDE

From: Dennis Slade SR
To: Michael Copps
Date: 1/29/03 9:50AM
Subject: FCC protect media independence

Dear Commissioner:

One of the basic elements which help to keep the American media at least partially free and independent is the set of FCC regulations restricting consolidation and monopolies.

In the 2002 Biennial Review, the FCC appears to be planning to roll back many of these protective regulations: the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the National Broadcast Ownership Cap, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule and the Dual Network Rule.

Relaxation or abandonment of the preceding rules will result in the purchase of local and independent newspapers and radio and television stations by large media giants. The cost to the American People and Democracy will be far too high if local news, reportorial freedom and access to a true variety of legitimate views are further compromised.

Commissioner, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Shem D. Sa-Akhi
25 E. 16th St
Brooklyn, NY 11226-2611

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: David Doerr
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 1/29/03 12:08AM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

RECEIVED

FEB - 4 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

David Doerr (doerr_david@hotmail.com) writes:

Dear commissioner,

In regards to the upcoming FCC decision on further media deregulation, please take into consideration the awful consequences on what further deregulation would do to this essential democratic institution. Please take a look at the following information on the current status of the media before you make your decision.

BACKGROUND:

Many know that the Tribune Company, Viacom, and other media corporations are fighting to expand the percentage of media that they can own in one market. This could mean that 'both' your daily newspapers could be owned by the same company, or that all your local news radio stations could soon be owned by one corporation---obviously, bad for providing a diversity of opinions and information---and bad for our democracy.

This issue has not been covered by NBC, CBS, and others, because the companies that own our media have a vested interest in the outcome of this decision.

So how can people learn about this issue, much less understand the implications? This is where ACME and other hard-working media reform groups come in.

The FCC has had a one public hearing about this, and scheduled two others, but three events is hardly enough for such a big revision of regulations.

FCC Commissioner Michael Copps has been eloquent in his dissent; The Nation recently published his views on-line. (<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20030203&s=copps>).

HERE ARE SOME FACTS:

- * Recent rapid media consolidation has meant fewer corporations controlling larger and larger percentages of the media market. This has reduced media owned by women and minority groups; led to less community programming; shrunk diversity in content; and created a media climate that is hostile to alternative and dissenting voices.

- * According to an 'FCC STUDY', in 1970, 20 studios supplied 68.4% of all prime-time programming ---- in 2002, 10 studios supplied 87.8% of prime-time programming.

- * News organizations run by media conglomerates have now been forced to focus on the bottom line making money for stockholders rather than informing the public. Often, these two objectives are at odds.

- * Currently, only 6 major companies dominate the newspaper industry; 7 major book publishers dominate publishing; and 5 music companies and 6 cable TV corporations own most of the media in those categories.

- * Mass media has been called the fourth branch of government because of the industry's massive lobbying power. The media trade associations have spent \$111.3 million to lobby Congress and the Executive Branch just since 1996. [source: The Center for Public Integrity]

From: Dennis Slade SR
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 1/29/03 8:21 AM
Subject: FCC protect media independence

Dear Commissioner:

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Commissioner, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Shem D. Sa-Akhi
25 E. 16th St
Brooklyn, NY 11226-2611

CURRENT REGULATIONS:

TV OWNERSHIP: Currently, one company is limited to owning two TV stations in one market. One company's TV stations cannot reach more than 35% of the national audience (raised from 25% in 1996).

CABLE: Right now, one party cannot have interests in a cable system that reaches more than 30% of homes with cable nationwide. Cable companies can only own a maximum of 40% of the programming on their channels.

CROSS-OWNERSHIP: Currently, one company cannot own a newspaper and broadcast station in the same market. One company cannot own a cable station and broadcast station in the same market.

* * * *

Democratic media fosters informed citizens, accountability, critical analysis and debate, and diversity. If current trends continue, however, our 'public' airwaves will slide even farther from a people-centered forum to strictly a corporate profit center.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 147.26.248.62
Remote IP address: 147.26.248.62

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Commissioner Powell, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Shem D. Sa-Akhi
25 E. 16th St
Brooklyn, NY 11226-2611

From: jimtroesh@aol.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 1/28/03 11:31AM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps.

I urge the FCC to consider the distinct needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules

Children consume almost live and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in the development of children.

The relaxation of media ownership rules will result in significantly less original programming for children. Relaxation also will reduce competition, potentially stifling innovation and increasing commercialism in children's programming.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Jim Troesh
5225 Blakeslee #222
North Hollywood, California 91601

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Howard Berman

From: lisasalnersQattbi.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 1/29/03 12:05AM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Dear FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

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Sincerely,

Lisa Salners
5745 Faculty Ave.
Lakewood, California 90712

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Linda Sanchez

From: miklos@usc.edu
To: Michael Copps
Date: 1/28/03 1:05PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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Sincerely,

Michael Miklos
502 1/2 N. Bronson Ave.
Los Angeles, California 90004

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Diane Watson

From: scallagh@juno.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 1/28/03 8:08PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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Sincerely,

S. Callaghan
4705 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
3rd Floor
Valley Village, California 91607

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Howard Berman

From: erickagettman@hotmail.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 1/28/03 1:07PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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Sincerely,

Ericka Wietecha
1307 W. Eddy St.
Chicago, Illinois 60657

cc:
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Peter Fitzgerald
Representative Rahm Emanuel

From: libraryescsQyahoo.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 1/28/03 6:06PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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Sincerely,

Inez Benichasa
115 Pearl Street
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145-3250

cc:
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Representative Michael Capuano

From: jdetarQearthlink.net
To: Michael Copps
Date: 1/28/03 3:38PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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Sincerely,

Judith De Tar De Tar
2541 Ivanhoe Dr
Los Angeles, California 90039

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Diane Watson

From: mrsdoosQhotmail.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 1/28/03 5:16 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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Kerri Diener
2660 Grove Way
Castro Valley, California 94546

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Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Barbara Lee

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North Hollywood, California 91601

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Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Howard Berman

From: kevinphickey@yahoo.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: 1/29/03 2:57 PM
Subject: Consider The Needs Of Children!

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Kevin Hickey
1477 Florida Street
San Francisco, California 94110

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Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Nancy Pelosi